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Abstract:

**A PIPE SEGMENT FOR A TRANSFER LINE FOR TRANSPORTING  
HOT PARTICULATE MATERIAL**

The present invention relates to a pipe segment including an outer and an inner pipe section, with the inner pipe section being positioned within the outer pipe section, and a support means supporting the inner pipe section in relation to the outer pipe section so that the inner pipe section can expand axially relative to the outer pipe section in response to temperature changes in the material being transported in the pipe segment. Furthermore, the present invention refers to a transfer line for transporting hot particulate material, such as iron ore fines, in a carrier gas, including a plurality of these pipe segments and to a process for transporting hot particulate material in a carrier gas in a direct smelting plant for producing molten metal from a metalliferous feed material, in particular between a pretreatment unit and solid delivery means in the form of lances for injecting the material into a direct smelting vessel.